

COURT RESTRICTS FREEDOM OF RELIGION

January 3, 1997 (David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, www.wayoflife.org) - The Supreme Court of Massachusetts has ruled that children of divorced parents cannot be taught religious views which would alienate them from a spouse. Jeffrey Kendall, a member of the Boston Church of Christ, was ordered not to share his religious beliefs with his three children because doing so was causing their mother, an Orthodox Jew, "emotional stress." The court ruled that Kendall cannot take his children to church where they would be told that non-Christians are "destined to burn in hell" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec. 11, 1997).

This wicked court has completely ignored the Constitution of the United States which it is sworn to uphold. The U.S. Constitution forbids the U.S. government to make any laws restricting religion, and that is precisely what these judges have so haughtily done. They claim that they are "protecting the children." Nonsense. They are encroaching upon the God-given authority of the family and the church where they have absolutely no business.

The Boston Church of Christ (also called the International Churches of Christ, ICOC) is a discipling cult which teaches that baptism is the new birth and that works are necessary to maintain one's salvation. They operate largely on university campuses and have grown rapidly since its founding in 1979. Claiming to be the only true church of Christ and that all other churches are apostate, they rebaptize those who come to them from other churches. Each convert is assigned to a discipler to whom he or she is directly responsible, and the convert is made spiritually dependent upon this individual, even to the point of confessing his/her sins to this person. Most converts to the ICOC are between the ages of 18 to 28. They are active on at least 20 major colleges. The converts are often isolated from their families, and every detail of their lives is controlled by the ICOC. They are told where they can work, who they can date, who they can marry. The "International Churches of Christ Information Page" on the web contains links to a wide variety of information on this cult -- <http://members.aol.com/SRauch4321/iccinfo.html>.